

**SUMMARY MINUTES OF  
THE COMMISSION FOR ARKANSAS PUBLIC SCHOOL ACADEMIC  
FACILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION**

**Department of Heritage, 1100 North Street, Little Rock, AR  
July 31, 2018**

**Commission Member in Attendance:**

Johnny Key, Commissioner, Arkansas Department of Education  
Aaron Burkes, President, Arkansas Development Finance Authority – **VIA TELEPHONE**  
Larry Walther, Director, Arkansas Department of Finance and Administration

**Others in Attendance:**

Brad Montgomery, Director, DPSAFT  
Terry Granderson, Assistant Director, DPSAFT  
Lori Freno, General Counsel, Arkansas Department of Education  
Carol Bowman, Administrative Analyst, DPSAFT  
Jerry Owens, Senior Transportation Manager, DPSAFT

**Quorum was met.**

**Meeting called to order.**

**Agenda item:**

**1. Summary Meeting Minutes – June 25, 2018**

**The Commission approved the summary minutes for the June 25, 2018, Commission teleconference meeting.**

**2. School Bus Safety Campaign**

Jerry Owens indicated the Arkansas Department of Education and Arkansas Association of Pupil Transportation were launching the sixth Flashing Red Kids Ahead school bus safety campaign, for the entire month of August, and thanked the Everett Automotive Group for assistance with the public awareness campaign.

**Status Report – No Commission action required.**

**3. Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities – Appointments**

Brad Montgomery acknowledged the late Joe Wishard, who served on the Advisory Committee and was deeply passionate about the children and the impact of high quality education facilities on building successful education systems across Arkansas. Mr. Montgomery stated the Arkansas School Boards Association submitted three candidates and requested the Commission make an appointment.

**The Commission approved the appointment of Clint Hull to the Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities.**

**4. Academic Facilities Review Board - Appointments**

Brad Montgomery stated the Governor's office appointed Michelle McClafin and Ro Arrington to the Academic Facilities Review Board to serve through August 6, 2020.

**Status Report – No Commission action required.**

## 5. Rules

Lori Freno requested two proposed rules be approved for public comment release. The rules were (1) Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing Bonded Debt Assistance and (2) Commission for Arkansas Public School Academic Facilities and Transportation Rules Governing Self-Construction Projects by Public Education Entities.

**The Commission separately approved the proposed rules and released each for a public comment period.**

## 6. Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities Report per Act 801 of 2017

Jimmy Alessi, Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities, thanked the Advisory Committee members who gave freely and tirelessly of their expertise, skills, and time for the project. Mr. Alessi indicated the members and opinions were diverse, and their intelligence was greatly appreciated. The attending members were recognized.

Mary Filardo, Executive Director of 21<sup>st</sup> Century School Funds, stated she had 25 years non-profit experience working on adequate and equitable with school districts from the local to national to international levels. She thanked the three officers and members. Ms. Filardo stated that nationwide K-12 is second only to highway spending; that Arkansas is a leader on the national level; and the Division maintains good data on all facilities and has codes, policies, and rules for guidance and processes. Ms. Filardo stated she was very impressed by the Advisory Committee recommendations, which would help with the continued progress of the program.

Dr. Charles Stein, Vice Chairman of the Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities, presented clarification information regarding the report. Questions were answered regarding additional funding sources (revenue stabilization, ADE transfer, carryover money), and future funding averages. Ms. Filardo explained inflation of funding rates through the years. Dr. Stein stated in his personal experience, Arkansas needs the state needs lists, which are already in rule; that many school districts had not participated in the program and needed to do planning regarding older facilities. Mr. Montgomery stated that having two needs lists, two funding “pots”, and a process would enable the State to work down the needs lists.

Brad Montgomery, Secretary of the Advisory Committee on Public School Academic Facilities, provided timeline details and indicated the Advisory Committee was presenting the voluminous report to comply with Act 801 of 2017 directing the report be presented to the Commission by July 31, 2018, which was accomplished on said date.

Commissioner Aaron Burkes voiced concern that if the report was provided to the Academic Facilities Oversight Committee it might be implied the Commission had approved the report. Commissioner Key stated the report would be provided to the Oversight Committee as a courtesy. Mr. Montgomery indicated the Commission could meet a second time. Mr. Burkes stated he attended multiple meetings and had a concern about the budget impact; funding for 2017-2019 was a result of Act 962 of 2015 and Act 864 of 2017, which established the early review conferences vs. 2009-2017, which required much less funding. Commissioner Key expressed concern about the school districts nearing the 350 enrollment level.

Mr. Montgomery confirmed for Commissioner Johnny Key that Recommendation 14 had been tabled. He additionally stated that the new process with needs lists would end the State being reactionary to school districts’ requests; the funding would be to whatever amount the Legislature approves; and a funding line drawn at that point. Dr. Stein stated Division staff does on-site inspections and runs the FCI reports during the approval/disapproval process. Commissioner Key indicated that the new process would level the playing field for, for example, Brinkley School District.

Mr. Montgomery thanked the Advisory Committee members for their widespread wealth of knowledge and expertise. Mr. Alessi thanked Carol Bowman for her assistance. Commissioner Key thanked Ms. Filardo and her organization, the Advisory Committee, and Division staff.

**Status Report – No Commission action required at this time.**

## 7. Adjourn